

AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows (complete listing of claims with markups according to Revised Format):

- 1-12 (canceled).
13. A method of determining a damage threshold for delivering an antiseptic dose to a pathogen in a target, the method comprising:
- a. measuring a pulsed laser output from a laser source;
 - b. irradiating the target with the pulsed laser output, wherein the target comprises the pathogen;
 - c. examining the pathogen for ablation;
 - d. adjusting the pulsed laser output; and
 - e. repeating steps (a) through (d) to determine the ablation threshold of the pathogen within the target.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the pulsed laser output comprises controlling a distance between a firing end of the laser source and a surface of the target.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output is delivered at a repetition rate corresponding to a photo-acoustic of the target.
16. The method of claim 13, further comprising calculating a therapeutic ratio for treating a periodontal tissue comprising the pathogen.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising selecting a treatment protocol for treating periodontal tissues that host the pathogen based on the therapeutic ratio.
18. The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output corresponds to a wavelength in a range of 580 to 1800 nanometers.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein irradiating the target with the pulsed laser output comprises exposing the target through an optical fiber.
20. The method of claim 13, wherein examining the pathogen for ablation comprises scanning an exposed region of the target with an optical scanning means.
21. (canceled).